MSRI
Mathematical Sciences Research Institute

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**
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**Media Advisory**

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# Announcing 2nd annual fest of math games and puzzles for Bay Area students

***Students who like a challenge turn out for a chance to solve math problems for fun!***

**WHAT –** The **Julia Robinson Mathematics Festival** will be an exciting scene of over 300 students, in grades 6-12, in Mountain View once again. They'll test their brain power and learn "hands-on" about math topics. For their efforts, students will earn raffle tickets to win prized goodies, tours of Google, and an opportunity to "shadow" a Google engineer for an afternoon. Students will circulate among numerous "activity tables" where 50 mathematicians and Google engineers will engage with them to figure out the math behind puzzles, games and problems. The festival was wildly popular last year with students who attended—and their parents! For more information, see http://www.msri.org/specials/festival/invite2008.html.

**WHEN – SUNDAY, May 4, 2008 from 8:30 am to 3:00 pm.**

**WHERE – Google Headquarters: 1600 Amphitheatre Parkway, Building 40, in Mt. View.**

**WHY –** To celebrate and share the joys and wonders of math with kids. The math festival is named in honor of Julia Robinson (1919-1985), the Berkeley mathematician who made significant contributions to the solution of Hilbert's Tenth Problem. Among her accolades, she was awarded a MacArthur Fellowship in 1983.

**WHO – Guest Speaker: Dr. Jennifer Quinn,** will give a talk entitled "Fascinatin' Fibonacci." She is a Professor of Interdisciplinary Arts and Sciences at the University of Washington, Tacoma, where she is currently building a mathematics curriculum. She recently served as Executive Director of the Association for Women in Mathematics. An award-winning author, scholar, and teacher, Quinn is a 2007 recipient of the Mathematical Association of America's Haimo Award for Distinguished College or University Teaching. Her research interests include graph theory, combinatorial matrix theory, and exploring connections between partitions and quantum physics.

**Joshua Zucker** of the Castilleja School in Palo Alto directs the Festival and its year-round extension, the Problem Solving Challenge for students in grades 6 through 12. He teaches mathematics, astronomy, and computer programming. He has BS and MS degrees in physics and mathematics from Stanford and UC Berkeley. Joshua is involved in Bay Area Math Circles and he is a co-founder and one of the leaders of the Teacher's Circle programs for middle school teachers in Palo Alto, the East Bay, and nationwide.

**HOW – FREE!** *For registration, see:* https://secure.msri.org/forms/jrmf/google The Julia Robinson Mathematics Festival is made possible by support from the **desJardins/Blachman Fund** and by **Google**.

**DETAILS – THE JULIA ROBINSON MATHEMATICS FESTIVAL** is hosted by Google and sponsored by the desJardins/Blachman Fund and MSRI. Google partners with like-minded organizations, in regions around the world, which are working to address the declining enrollment rates in technology-related studies in various regions around the globe. See http://www.google.com/diversity

**Google** (**www.google.com**) is a global technology leader focused on improving the way people connect with information. Google's innovations in web search and advertising have made it a top Internet destination. Google's automated search technology helps people obtain instant access to relevant information from its vast online index.

The **Mathematical Sciences Research Institute (MSRI, www.msri.org)** is one of the world's premiere centers for research in the mathematical sciences, and has been advancing mathematical research through workshops and conferences since its founding as an independent institute in 1982. More than 1,700 mathematical scientists visit MSRI each year in Berkeley, CA, many for stays of up to one academic year. The Institute has been funded primarily by the National Science Foundation with additional support from other government agencies, private foundations, academic and corporate sponsors, and individual donors. MSRI is involved in K-12 math education through "Critical Issues" conferences for educators and math circles and Olympiads for students, and public education through its "Conversations" series of public events.

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